



# Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Whether you have child(ren) in First Year or Sixth Year or any year in between, the final weeks of the school year are formative. Your child(ren)'s health, safety, academic achievements, personal development and wellbeing are our absolute priority.

- **Relevant Information**

It is very important that your child(ren) stay focused and work with their teachers during this time. The staff are here to support each student in this regard, and parents/guardians are asked to please to communicate with us at [reception@loretoclonmel.ie](mailto:reception@loretoclonmel.ie) if there is anything that we need to know or that might help us in this endeavour. Your email will be forwarded to the relevant person.

- **School Reports**

In order to support your child(ren)'s engagement with remote teaching and learning over the next few weeks, we will be providing **summer reports (via VSware) for all students in First Year, Second Year, Transition Year and Fifth Year.**

Following yesterday's decision from the Minister re the Junior Cert/Cycle Assessments we are now in the process of making our own plan for Third Year Assessment and Reporting. **So Third Years will also receive a report.**

- **How your child(ren) will be assessed**

*By early next week your child(ren)'s teachers will set out a programme of work which will include the type(s) of assessment to be used for that subject.* The results provided by teachers on reports will reflect a combination of things and may include a percentage for the standard of work and engagement with remote teaching and learning, as well as results from more traditional assignments (both from earlier in the year and since the school closure). It is our hope that this will provide you and your child(ren) with a fair and combined reflection of effort, competence and achievement in subject areas.

*Please understand that this is not the way we usually assess students.* Those in senior cycle should be aware that continuous assessments frequently provide higher results than those achieved in a one-off end of year examination.

So, in the interests of student and teacher wellbeing please note the following for the final weeks of this school term:

1. Teachers are *not required* to provide new material after Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
2. All assessments are to be completed before Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2020.
3. From the Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 all students are asked to use these days as "catch-up" days. This will ensure that students have time to organise all their notes/materials from this school year and will have them to hand when we commence the 2020-2021 school year.
4. Parents/Guardians will be notified by text when the reports are available on VSware. This will most likely be in July. This is to facilitate the Minister's request that all exam students and teachers

would have a complete break for 2 weeks in early June before reconnecting with Leaving Cert students from mid-June.

5. Specific details of the make-up of Third Year assessments will be provided to students and parents/guardians early next week.
6. In the Autumn, for each Third Year student, certification will involve two elements:
  - **A State Certificate of completion of Junior Cycle from the Department of Education and Skills.**
  - **A Student Profile of Achievement** setting out the learning achievements of students in Junior Cycle.
7. The Loreto Clonmel Profile of Achievement (including CBAs, OAL and Wellbeing) will be populated by the school in Term 1 of the 2020 - 2021 school year. This will be sent to parents/guardians at that time.

- **Fees for Leaving Cert and Junior Cert**

The State Examinations Commission (SEC) have asked that we bring the following information to the attention of examination candidates and their parents/guardians:

**Leaving Certificate Fees:** The closing date for payment of the Leaving Cert examination fee is being extended until after the exams are complete and the results has issued.

**Junior Certificate/Cycle Fees:** Students will not be required to pay an examination fees to the SEC in relation to the 2020 Junior Cycle examinations, the SEC will be issuing a refund to all students who have already paid. There is no need to contact the State Examinations Commission as refunds will be made automatically. Further details will be sent to all schools in the coming days and the school will post this information in the Third Year Team.

- **State Exam Students**

A special word to parents/guardians of our state exam students: we appreciate the particular strain that you and your child(ren) are under due to the uncertainty of the situation. Please be assured of our continued support. We are very pleased to have received clarity yesterday on the Junior Cert/Cycle. We wish we could provide Leaving Certs with more certainty at this time. The information we do have at present is that the Leaving Certificate Exams will commence on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and we will of course advise you of all developments as they evolve.

In conclusion I'd like to say how proud I am to be part of this wonderful school community in Loreto, Clonmel. This community exists because of the generosity and professionalism of staff and the diligence, positivity and participation of our students and the involvement of parents/guardians in their child(ren)'s education.

I look forward to the day when all staff and students next meet in our school building face-to-face. In the meantime - stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Mc Grath,  
Principal



## Summer Term 2020 Prayer

*We pray for all in our school, the extended Loreto community, our family, friends, front line staff and all in our local and national community:*

that we may face the unknown with **hope** and embrace goodness in each new day.

## HSE Posters

**Coronavirus COVID-19**  Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

**Everyone stay at home.**  
Everyone has the power to **Stop COVID-19.**

**Stay at home in all circumstances, EXCEPT:**

- > Travel to and from work where your work is an essential service. [See gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)
- > To shop for essential food and household goods
- > To attend medical appointments and collect medicines
- > For vital family reasons including caring for children, older or vulnerable people or someone who is cocooning but excluding social family visits
- > To take exercise within 2km of your home. You may include children from your household but **MUST** adhere to 2m physical distancing from other people.

Cocooning has been introduced for those over 70 years and those who are extremely medically vulnerable to COVID-19. You can find out more about this on [hse.ie](http://hse.ie).

Remember, you cannot arrange a gathering with anybody you do not live with.

If you have symptoms, self-isolate to protect others and phone your GP.

For information and advice visit [hse.ie](http://hse.ie) or phone HSE Live **1850 24 1850**

**For Daily Updates Visit**  
[www.gov.ie/health-covid-19](http://www.gov.ie/health-covid-19)  
[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

**How to Prevent**

- Stop** shaking hands or hugging when saying hello or greeting other people
- Distance** yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell
- Wash** your hands well and often to avoid contamination
- Cover** your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue
- Avoid** touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean** and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

**Symptoms**

- > Fever (High Temperature) > A Cough > Shortness of Breath
- > Breathing Difficulties

Ireland is operating a delay strategy in line with WHO and ECDC advice

 **Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

**Coronavirus COVID-19**  Coronavirus COVID-19 Public Health Advice

**Social Distancing Outside**

Spending time outdoors is good for our health. **But social responsibility is essential for ALL our health.**

- Avoid** close contact with others
- Distance** yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people
- Small group** sizes should be kept to a minimum
- Don't arrange** to meet up with other groups
- Avoid** an area if it looks very busy and go somewhere else for your walk

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